

Application No.: 09/671,567

Docket No.: JCLA5635

REMARKS

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 1-9 as being allowed. In addition, the Office Action has rejected claims 10-13 as being unpatentable over Younse et al. (USP 4,805,203) in view of Ayukawa et al. (USP 6,404,694) and further in view of Heller et al. (USP 6,396,539).

After carefully considering the remarks set forth in this Office Action and the cited references, Applicants respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection are requested.

Discussion of 35 U.S.C §103 rejections

Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Younse et al. (USP 4,805,023, Younse hereinafter) in view of Ayukawa et al. (USP 6,404,694, Ayukawa hereinafter).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the reference or references, taken alone or combined, must teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claims. See M.P.E.P. § 2143, 8th, February 2003. Applicants respectfully assert that Younse in view of Ayukawa is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 10 of the invention unpatentable for the reasons as set forth below.

As recognized by the Office, Younse fails to teach "a memory element for storing a plurality of defective pixel addresses, wherein the defective pixel addresses are arranged in an ascending order in the memory element". However, contrary to the Office's assertion, Ayukawa

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also fails to teach the above claimed features. Instead, Ayukawa teaches the addresses of the data items are consecutive, rather than the data stored in the different addresses are consecutive. Claim 10 of the present invention recites that the data, which are addresses for the pixel, are arranged in an ascending order in the memory element.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants contend that prior art cited by the Office fails to teach or suggest every element of claim 10. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claims 10 & 12.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Younse et al. in view of Heller et al. (U.S. Patent 6,396,539).

For at least the reasons that Heller also fails to disclose the defective pixel addresses are arranged in an ascending order in the memory element. Even Heller teaches the memory element is a fuse array, the combination of Heller with Younse still fails to remedy the deficiency in Younse. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Younse in view of Heller fails to render claims 11 obvious. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectively requested.

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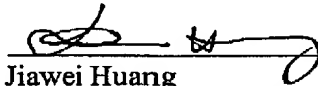
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been rendered moot, and that the now pending claims 1-12 are in conditions for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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